

## A G E N D A



## Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council		Item ID	19954	Agenda Number	3.
Meeting Date:	11/8/2012		Department:	Solid Waste Services	
Subject					
Approve amendments to administrative rules for City Code Chapter 15-6 (Solid Waste Service) regarding single-use carryout bags.					
Amount and Source of Funding					
Fiscal Note					
A fiscal note is not required.					
Purchasing Language:					
Prior Council Action:	April 19, 2007 - Approved Resolution No. 20070419-026 directing the City Manager to evaluate and recommend strategies for limiting the use of non-compostable plastic bags by stores located in the City, and promoting the use of compostable plastic bags, recyclable paper bags, or reusable checkout bags. April 10, 2008 - Approved Resolution No. 20080410-048 adopting a voluntary plastic bag reduction plan in lieu of an ordinance banning plastic bags, to reduce by half the number of plastic bags entering the waste stream within 18 months. June 24, 2010 – Approved Resolution No. 20100624-079 directing the City Manager to determine the cost to Austin taxpayers of processing plastic bags in the waste stream. August 4, 2011 - Approved Resolution No. 20110804-021 directing the City Manager to draft, process, and bring forward for Council consideration by November, 2011, an ordinance providing a comprehensive phase-out of single-use plastic bags offered at retail check-outs within the city limits of Austin. The City Manager is further directed to engage retail stakeholders and concerned citizens in the development of the draft ordinance. March 1, 2012 – Conduct a public hearing and approve Ordinance No. 20120301-078 amending Chapter 15-6 of the City Code phasing in a prohibition of single-use carryout bags within the city limits.				
For More Information:	Bob Gedert, ARR, 974-1926; or Jessica Kingpetcharat, ARR, 974-7678				
Boards and Commission Action:	On October 10, 2012, the Zero Waste Advisory Commission (ZWAC) voted 6-0 (1 vacancy) to support amending administrative rules for Chapter 15-6 of the City Code (Solid Waste Service) regarding single-use carryout bags.				
MBE / WBE:					

Related Items:	
Additional Backup Information	
<p>This action seeks Council approval to amend the Administrative Rules for Chapter 15-6 for Solid Waste Services. The Administrative Rules proposed by Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) staff and recommended for approval by the Zero Waste Advisory Commission (ZWAC) include clarifications regarding signage required by the ordinance, reusable bag standards, hardship variance information, and alternative compliance options.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND</b>  On March 1, 2012 the Austin City Council adopted amendments to City Code Chapter 15-6 Solid Waste Services regarding the phase-out of single-use carryout bags at businesses. The ordinance allows businesses to issue plastic, paper, and/or reusable bags that meet certain criteria. Additionally, the ordinance requires businesses to provide signage for their customers and staff, authorizes the Director of Austin Resource Recovery to grant hardship variances and consider alternative compliance options. The administrative rules clarify compliance standards.</p> <p><b>PROCESS</b>  Austin Resource Recovery staff and various stakeholders met over the course of six months to consider language for the administrative rules, potential impacts to the business community, and practical implementation steps to achieve compliance. Staff produced two draft versions of the rules and released both versions to the public for comment. Stakeholders were notified by email and provided two weeks to review the draft versions and submit their feedback. To the extent possible, staff incorporated stakeholder feedback into a third draft released on October 5, 2012 prior to Zero Waste Advisory Commission consideration on October 10, 2012.</p> <p><b>ZERO WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION (ZWAC) RECOMMENDATION</b>  ZWAC met on October 10, 2012, and by a vote of 6-0 (1 seat vacant), supported adopting the proposed amendments to Chapter 15-6 Administrative Rules with minor revisions.</p> <p><b>STAFF RECOMMENDATION</b>  Staff worked closely with businesses, industry associations and representatives, community activists, and local non-profits to develop the recommended revisions to the Administrative Rules. Based on input from stakeholders and ZWAC, staff recommends adoption of the proposed amendments to the Chapter 15-6 Administrative Rules regarding single-use carryout bags, which incorporates recommendations from ZWAC (see Attachment A).</p>	